## REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

## REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-25 are directed to a software system embedded on a computer-readable medium that receives schedule information from a plurality of users, manages the schedule information on behalf of the plurality of users, and distributes the scheduling information to subscribers. In particular, claim 1 recites a storage system and a data store which is computer hardware relating to computer memory. Claim 1 also produces a concrete, tangible, and useful result by notifying subscribers of user presence and availability via the distribution of scheduling information. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and the dependent claims therefrom are patentable and in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

<u>REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103</u>

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. ("ConNexus Awarenex: Extending awareness to mobile users," Sun Inc., 2001, pp. 221-228). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is important to make note of the difference between awareness information and calendar information as taught by Tang et al. According to Tang et al., awareness information pertains to computer related activity such as whether the user is logged in to the system and whether the computer is idle. (Contact list, page 222) Calendar information pertains to user defined schedule information such as appointments for the day. (Contact Toolbar, page 222) Schedule information as disclosed by Applicants' relates to calendar information as defined by Tang et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a schedule publication element configured to receive schedule information from a plurality of users through a user interface." At a minimum, Tang et al. do not show, teach, or suggest a schedule publication element as recited in Applicants' claim 1. The Examiner suggests that Tang et al. teach a publication element for acquiring schedule information from users. In particular, the Examiner relies on the Design section that teaches "providing awareness cues to help people find oppurtune times to initiate contact" to teach a schedule publication element. (The Connexus User Inteface Design, page 222)

However, Tang et al. provide an example of an "awareness cue" in the contact list of Figure 1. The contact list provides awareness information for each person of the list by showing any computer input device idle time and any communication activity indicators. (Description of Figure 1, page 222) The awareness cue simply displays

awareness information about one or more contact persons in the list based on awareness knowledge determined from computer generated information (i.e. user logged in, computer idle time, communication activity). (Contact List, page 222) The awareness cue of Tang et al. is not configured to receive information from a user. Further, the awareness cue of Tang et al. is not configured to receive schedule information from a user. Applicant can find no mention in Tang et al. of an element configured to receive schedule information from a user. It would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the contact list of Tang et al. to receive schedule information from a plurality of users. Therefore, Tang et al. do not show, teach, or suggest a schedule publication element configured to receive schedule information from a plurality of users through a user interface.

The Examiner also relies on the same contact list of Figure 1 to teach a schedule management element configured to receive schedule information from the schedule publication element. As recited in claim 1, Applicants' system includes a schedule publication element and a schedule management element which are separate and distinct elements that perform different functions. The schedule publication element receives schedule information from a plurality of users and the schedule management element integrates the schedule information from the plurality of users into a single storage system. Further at a minimum, Tang et al. do not show, teach, or suggest a schedule management system as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

At best, the contact list of Figure 1 integrates awareness information for a plurality of users into a single display interface. The contact list of Figure 1 as taught by Tang et al. does not integrate calendar information. Further, the contact list of Figure 1

as taught by Tang et al. does not integrate the calendar information into a storage system. It is appreciated that a storage system such as a stack can be associated with a display interface in order to display the data shown in the interface. But in order to store integrated calendar information, additional storage and management procedures would be needed to retain the information. This is not taught or suggested by Tang et al. Further, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the contact list of Figure 1 to integrate calendar information from a plurality of users into a storage system.

Tang et al., however, teach a contact toolbar that provides access to calandar information relevant to a selected user. The calendar information for a plurality of users is not integrated into a single storage system, rather it is managed and stored by it's relevant user. The user via the contact toolbar is merely granted access to the calendar information stored by the other user. Therefore, Tang et al. do not show, teach, or suggest a schedule management element configured to receive schedule information from the schedule publication element and having a storage system configured to store integrated schedule information based on the received schedule information.
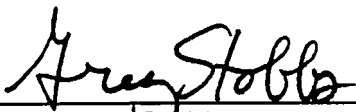
Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with the rejection on these grounds of all claims dependent therefrom.

## CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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